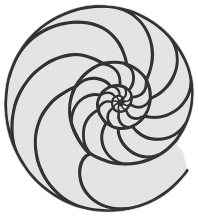

Structural Map:

Productivity Frontiers and Mobility Constraints

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Map Introduction

Together, the Productivity Frontier Series (PFS) and the Structural Mobility Trap Series (SMTS) form an integrated structural map of modern economic dynamism.

The map examines how productivity frontiers emerge, how gains diffuse unevenly, and how mobility constraints shape access to opportunity across regions, sectors, and households. Rather than treating productivity and mobility as separate domains, the series analyze them as interdependent layers within a single economic system.

While the analytical framework is structurally general, this map is deployed specifically to the United States over the 2025-2035 horizon, where frontier innovation, capital concentration, and mobility frictions intersect at scale. The U.S. case offers a high-resolution environment in which structural bottlenecks become visible long before they appear in aggregate indicators.

Read jointly, the two series describe a single system: PFS explains why productivity gains concentrate; SMTS explains why opportunity fails to follow.

1 Productivity Frontier Series (PFS)

PFS-00

Published: Dec 16

Rebuilding the U.S. Productivity Frontier: Frontier Innovation, Diffusion, and the Next Growth Cycle (2025-2035)

Establishes the national productivity problem as a diffusion and system-integration challenge rather than a frontier innovation shortage.

PFS-01

The Absorptive Capacity Shortfall

Identifies structural limits that prevent firms, regions, and institutions from translating frontier technologies into broad productivity gains.

PFS-02

Workforce Transformation Bottlenecks

Frames skill formation, retraining, and role redesign as binding constraints on productivity diffusion.

PFS-03

Capital Concentration and the Geography of Innovation

Maps how capital allocation patterns reinforce spatial concentration of innovation and slow national convergence.

PFS-04

Organizational Friction and the Process Redesign Gap (reserved)

Examines internal organizational constraints that suppress productivity gains despite technology adoption.

PFS-05

Infrastructure & Digital Backbone Constraints (reserved)

Identifies foundational infrastructure limits that cap the scale and speed of productivity diffusion.

2 Structural Mobility Trap Series (SMTS)

SMTS-00

Upcoming: Dec 30

The Structural Mobility Trap: Housing, Costs, Opportunity, and the Future of U.S. Economic Dynamism (2025-2035)

Defines mobility as a structural prerequisite for productivity diffusion and long-run economic dynamism.

SMTS-01

Housing Supply and the Geography of Opportunity

Identifies housing constraints as a primary choke point limiting access to high-productivity regions.

SMTS-02

Urban Infrastructure and Mobility Systems

The Infrastructure Drag: Transport, Urban Services, and the Hidden Cost of American Mobility

Maps how transport and urban service capacity shape effective labor mobility within and across regions.

SMTS-03

Labor Mobility and Regional Reallocation

The Opportunity Flow Problem: Migration, Skills, and Regional Reallocation Dynamics

Examines frictions in worker relocation and skill matching that slow regional adjustment.

SMTS-04

The Care-Economy Cost Burden (reserved)

The Care Cost Squeeze: Childcare, Elder Care, and the Economics of Household Mobility

Identifies care costs as a structural tax on labor mobility and household flexibility.

SMTS-05

Healthcare Access and the Stability of Economic Mobility (reserved)

The Healthcare Affordability Barrier: Medical Costs, Labor Participation, and Economic Security

Maps healthcare costs as a stabilizer or destabilizer of long-term mobility and participation.

How the Map Should Be Read

The PFS and SMTS maps are not parallel analyses but interlocking structural layers. Productivity diffusion requires not only technological adoption and organizational capacity (PFS), but also affordable mobility, stable households, and accessible opportunity nodes (SMTS). Structural failure in either layer constrains the other, producing a persistent gap between frontier performance and median outcomes. The full system can only be understood by reading both series as a single, multi-layered architecture.